

Jewel Cave National Monument 11149 US Hwy 16 Building B12 Custer, SD 57730 605-673-8300 phone 605-673-8397 fax

Jewel Cave National Monument News Release

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Jewel Cave Works on Roadways September 6th through 9th

Custer – Jewel Cave National Monument has scheduled a roadway chip sealing project for the week after Labor Day Weekend. All paved roads at the Monument, along with the parking lot at the Historic Cabin Area, will witness road construction. The parking lot at the Visitor Center is not within the work zone. Traffic delays are not expected; however, visitors are being advised of the added machinery and equipment within the Monument.

Superintendent Larry Johnson states, "Chip sealing is a preventative maintenance operation, extending a roadway's surface life about three to five years. Visitors are reminded to please slow down when entering the Monument, stay alert, and pay attention to all work zone signs and flaggers. Slowing down when rock chips are on the road prevents vehicle damage." Adding stone chips to pavement after it has sat for more than five years extends the pavement life considerably. Furthermore, the cost of chipping a road is a small fraction of the cost of new paving, and chip sealing tends to use less oil and less material than paving.

Chip seal involves sealing the existing asphalt with an oil mixture and small chips or rock aggregate. Excess chips are swept off, and a top seal is applied to complete the process. It typically takes two to four days to complete. At present, there is no planned disruption of parking during the project. Yet, visitors are encouraged to plan additional time for travel to and from the Monument

Jewel Cave National Monument is currently open from 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. and offers guided cave tours throughout the day. To learn more about the Monument or receive additional project information, please call the visitor center at 605-673-8300 and select Option 2 or visit the Monument online at www.nps.gov/jeca.

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